

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3, 14, and 15 have been canceled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-20 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 8-133086. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3. Claims 8 and 11 depend from claim 1.

Amended claim 7 recites a drive controlling apparatus for an automotive vehicle comprising: at least one couple of road wheels that constitutes one pair of parallel road wheels with respect to a vehicular width direction located on the same axis of the vehicular width direction; a plurality of motors driving independently and separately each road wheel of the pair of parallel road wheels; and a power supply to supply an electric power to the plurality of motors, the plurality of motors driving respective road wheels of the pair of parallel road wheels being enabled to constitute a serial circuit with respect to the power supply, wherein the plurality of motors driving respective road wheels of the pair of parallel road wheels are enabled to constitute a parallel circuit with respect to the power supply and wherein the drive controlling apparatus further comprises: a circuit switching section that selectively sets an electrical connection of the plurality of motors with respect to the power supply to one of the parallel circuit and the serial circuit; and a circuit switching control

section that controls the circuit switching section to set the electrical connection of the plurality of motors with respect to the power supply to one of the parallel circuit and the serial circuit in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle.

JP 8-133086 discloses a motor-driven car that includes a pair of drive motors 6, 7 that are wired to a battery and a relay that is capable of selecting a series or parallel wiring state for the drive motors. However, JP 8-133086 does not disclose “a circuit switching control section that controls the circuit switching section to set the electrical connection of the plurality of motors with respect to the power supply to one of the parallel circuit and the serial circuit in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle.” JP 8-133086 does not disclose that the relay is controlled to select a series or parallel state in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle. Therefore, JP 8-133086 does not disclose all of the features of claim 7. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,042,055 (hereafter “Ward”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 11 depends from claim 1.

Ward discloses a battery powered vehicle and drive system that includes a control system for motors 30. See Ward at col. 4, line 36, to col. 7, line 23. However, Ward does not disclose “a circuit switching control section that controls the circuit switching section to set the electrical connection of the plurality of motors with respect to the power supply to one of the parallel circuit and the serial circuit in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle.” Ward does not disclose that the relay is controlled to select a series or parallel state in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle. Therefore, Ward does not disclose all of the features of claim 7. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,279,672 (hereafter “Losego”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 12-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 8-133086 or Ward or Losego in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,953,646 (hereafter “Kim”) and JP 2000-318473. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 2, 13, 17, and 18 depend from claim 1. Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim 12 depends from claim 7. Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of JP 8-133086 and Ward discussed above in regard to independent claim 7, from which claim 12 depends. Losego discloses a motorization system for a merchandise cart. However, Losego does not disclose “a circuit switching control section that controls the circuit switching section to set the electrical connection of the plurality of motors with respect to the power supply to one of the parallel circuit and the serial circuit in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle.” Losego does not disclose that the relay is controlled to select a series or parallel state in accordance with at least one of a travel state of the vehicle and a manipulation for the vehicle. Therefore, Losego does not disclose all of the features of claim 7. Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Losego. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 8-133086 or Ward in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0090225 (hereafter “Posma et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 10 depends from claim 7. Posma et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of JP 8-133086 and Ward discussed above in regard to independent claim 7, from which claim 10 depends. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 3-6, 9, 15, and 16 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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